



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

02-20-2014 CCHS Attachment 4

AGENDA ITEM: Regional Benchmarking for the School Readiness Indicators

BACKGROUND: FTF School Readiness Indicators were chosen to reflect the effectiveness of the funding strategies to improve the lives of children residing in the state of Arizona. The indicators and subsequent benchmarks will be monitored over time in order to determine progress in reaching the indicators. They are not stand alone indicators. They should be a result of collaborations across communities and sectors that impact a child's readiness for entering school and subsequently their life long success. They should also encourage Regional Councils and the State Board in making informed decisions.

Each indicator was developed through a collaborative process with FTF Advisory Committees and vetted by the Regional Councils and the State Board. The School Readiness Indicators will be benchmarked by Advisory Committee Sub-Committees charged with identifying the amount of change that should be reasonably expected on each indicator at the state level by 2020.

RECOMMENDATION: The Regional Director presents this as informational purposes only.



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09-19-2013 CCHS Attachment 4

School Readiness Indicators 2020 State Level Benchmark Summary

Indicator #4:	#/% of families that spend no more than 10% of the regional median family income on quality care and education with a Quality First rating of 3-5 stars
Intent:	Increase the number of families that can afford high-quality early learning programs so family financial contribution is no higher than 10% of the regional median family income

Data sources considered:

- First Things First Quality First database
- Arizona Market Rate Survey (Department of Economic Security)
- Quality First Scholarship database
- National cost of care data

Data sources recommended for Benchmark:

- First Things First Quality First database
- Quality First Rating and Scholarship database

Baseline:

- **100%** of families ($N = 48$) spend no more than 10% of the regional median family income (\$53,566- based on ACS 2012 estimates) on quality care and education with a Quality First rating of 3-5 stars.

Benchmark 2020:

- XX% of families spend no more than 10% of the regional median family income on quality care and education with a Quality First rating of 3-5 stars.

Other recommendations and considerations:

- The recommendation to maintain the baseline for this indicator is based on the assumption that as more providers increase their quality to a 3-5 star rating, the cost to maintain that quality level will also increase. So that providers are still willing to increase and maintain quality without passing on to families the high cost of maintaining that quality, other financial supports for programs should be expanded so that high quality is affordable to both providers and families. This is a significant shift in the operation of the early childhood system, and therefore it is aspirational to maintain the baseline without losing ground by 2020.